



Volume 32

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Number 11

PECTORAL SANDPIPER

Sept. 23, 1950 — One Pectoral Sandpiper *Pisobia melanotos* observed for approximately one half hour at St. Mary's Lake near Moraga, Contra Costa county. (Peterson, "rare coastal migrant") Seen in company with one Greater Yellow-Legs, three Killdeer, and one Least Sandpiper on a muddy island near the headwaters of the lake. Bird also flew from the larger island to a smaller one nearby giving opportunity to see the tail pattern when tail is spread.

—LELAND L. STALLCUP & HARRY C. ADAMSON

VAUX SWIFTS

For the last three years vaux swifts, (a pair definitely known), have nested in the Los Gatos city limits. On May 3rd, 1950 at 7:38 p.m. in front of the Lyndon Hotel and the Railroad Station, whirling about in this area and over the nearby stream, were approximately 300 vaux swifts. I have never seen that many together before. They were hawking about in the air from 20 to 100 feet overhead, and were as thick as a swarm of bees. The next day I went early to the same vicinity but did not see ONE! I found only a scattered few in near-by areas.

The vaux swifts have nested in this area, judging from reports I have been able to gather, for the past 20 years.

—BEATRICE W. NIELSEN, Los Gatos, Calif.

Mrs. Nielsen and Miss Emily Smith on August 16, 1949 noted the Caspian Tern Colony (The Gull, Sept. 1950) in the Dumbarton Bridge area, also "a nice colony of snowy egrets . . . around 26."

THE SOCIETY'S BIRD "LIFE-LIST". Over the years Mrs. Albert B. Stephens has kept this list, recording the various species identified on the official field trips of the Society. Beginning with 1919 with 124 species, the grand total to date is 263. This year, 1950, added the Black-footed albatross and the Gray-backed or New Zealand shearwater, both on the Farallon trip. Are new species coming into our area or are we going further afield? Mrs. Stephens will keep the list up-to-date. Anyone wishing to look over the list may do so at the next meeting.

SEPTEMBER — ALAMEDA — TRIP

The September Field Trip was taken to Alameda on Sunday, the 24th. The weather was perfect. High tide at Ft. Point was 5.4 feet at 10:42 a.m. PST. Low tide was 1:6 feet at 4:24 p.m. The party met at Lincoln Park at 11:30 a.m. PST. where some land birds were observed. A few persons were fortunate in seeing a Sparrow Hawk carry away a House Sparrow in its talons. Those persons coming to Alameda over the East Oakland Freeway reported having seen concentrations of Avocets and other large waders along the East Oakland shore of San Leandro Bay. The spots where these concentrations occur depend upon the immediate activities of man in this region. On Sundays there are large numbers of planes in the air and speed boats play in the bay. The party drove to the garbage dump on Doolittle Road and scattered along the shore where, while eating lunch, waders resting in the grassy islands could be observed. Later cars were parked along McCartney Drive. After viewing the birds on the sand spit a walk was taken to the western shore of Bay Farm Island where a few Sanderlings, two Snowy Plover and a California Clapper Rail were seen at close range. After the tide receded a number of persons walked to the spit and Mr. Curl reported that they had a fine close-up view of a Pectoral Sandpiper.

About sixty-five guests and members were present.

Forty-five species were observed:

Eared grebe; Calif. br. pelican; dbl.-cr. cormorant; gt. bl. heron; mallard; pintail; marsh & sparrow hawk; Calif. clapper rail; snowy, semipal., killdeer & bk.-bell. plover; bk. turnstone; long-bl. & Hudsonian curlew; willet; gr. yellow legs; pectoral, least & red-bk. sandpiper; dowitcher; west. sandpiper; marb. godwit; sanderling; avocet; west., Calif., & rg.-bl. gull, Forster & Caspian tern; burr. owl; beltd. kingfisher; bk. phoebe; water pipit; Calif. shrike; warb. vireo; pleo. warbler; house sparrow; west. meadowlark; red-wg. & Brewer black-bird; house finch; Savannah & song sparrow.

— JUNE A W. KELLY, *Leader and Historian*.

HIGH LIGHTS OF OCTOBER MEETING. The President expressed great satisfaction that most all tickets for the Screen Tour Lectures had been sold.

About 75 members and guests enjoyed the talk on "The Rediscovery of the Farallones" by Mr. Allyn G. Smith. He said in 1790 Sea otters were abundant; in 1807 Fur seals were found; in 1810, 30,000 fur skins were taken; in 1854 California murre eggs brought \$1.50 per dozen in San Francisco; in 1859 4,000,000 murre eggs were gathered; in 1907 egg taking was stopped, and in 1909 the Islands were made a Bird Sanctuary under President Taft's administration. At present the bird population is tremendous, mostly California murre.

Mr. Arthur Myer asked for volunteers for the Christmas Bird Census, December 24th.

— MYRA J. BROWNE, *Recording Secretary*.

OCTOBER — STINSON BEACH — TRIP

Although we did not see as many species as last year, those who attended the Stinson Beach trip October 16, will agree that it was a fine day for birding. We did not see such good birds as Red-bellied Hawk, Osprey and Royal Tern, as were seen last year, but we made up for it by getting good views of a Marbled Murrelet fishing just off shore. The weather was overcast but not particularly cold and probably this lack of cold weather would explain the slow arrival of the wintering birds. The following 65 birds were observed:

Common & red-th. loon; west., horned, & eared grebe; white & Calif. br. pelican; dbl.-cr., Brandt & pelagic (Baird) cormorant; gt. bl., heron; Amer. & snowy egret; bk. brant; pintail; les. scap; wh.-wg. & surf scoter; tur. vulture; red-tl., marsh, duck & spar. hawk; Calif. quail; coot; kildeer; bk.-bell. plover; long-bld. curlew; red-bk. sandpiper; sanderling; glau.-wg., west. Heron; Calif., rg.-bl., & Herman gull; pigeon guillemot; marb. murrelet; band-tld. pigeon; Anna hummingbird; bltd. kingfisher; red-sh. flicker; bk. phoebe; Steller & scrub (Calif.) jay; raven; crow; ch.-bk. chickadee; Bewick wren; robin; west. bluebird; gl.-cr. kinglet; pipit; Calif. shrike; Audubon warbler; meadowlark; red-wg. & Brewer blackbird; house finch; pine siskin; Amer. goldfinch; Savannah sparrow; Ore. junco; wh.-cr. & song sparrow.

— KEN SCHULZ, *Leader and Historian*.

NEW PUBLICATION: National Wildlife and Conservation Digest, covering the North American Continent, published by Kaerne Publications Ltd. Winnipeg, Canada. It is available to members at the Audubon Case at the Oakland Public Museum.

"Manitoba Hawk Flight", "Wingbeats", "The Passing of the Cranes," "No Happier Bird than the Little Chickadee", February 1950.

"Flight to the North", "About Owls", March 1950.

"Migratory Bird Sanctuaries in Canada", "The Plight of the Bald Eagle," June 1950.

NATURAL HISTORY magazine Oct. 1950 "Saga of the Sage" by Charles W. Schwartz. Remarkable photos of the sage grouse in nuptial plumage.

NEW MEMBERS: We welcome the following; from San Francisco, Miss Winifred Donahue, Mrs. Morton R. Gibbons, Dr. Joel F. Gustafson, Mr. Christopher C. Elliott, Miss Anita Plevin; from Oakland, Miss Dorothy L. Chandler, Ronald H. Goodwin, Mr. J. Gale Richardson; from Berkeley, Mr. H. C. Bradley, Miss Joyce E. Ferguson, Miss Katherine Ferguson, Mrs. O. A. Jeschien, Mr. David G. Nichols, Miss Evelyn O. Price, Mr. & Mrs. David Stearns, Mrs. Elizabeth W. Sugarman; from Ross, Mrs. C. Burtchaell; from San Rafael, Mr. Robert P. Howell; from Piedmont, Mrs. Ergo A. Majors.

OBSERVATIONS. Edited by Junea W. Kelly. Fox sparrow, Sept. 30; Hermit thrush, Oct. 14, Oakland, Estella Bruce. Chestnut-backed chickadees, Sept. -9, Sunset View Cemetery, Albany, A. Laurence Curl. Female western tanager, Oct. 15, Ross, Minnie H. Young.

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Nov. 9th, Thursday,

The 398th meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held at 8 p.m. in the Assembly Hall of the Public Library, Larkin and McAllister Sts., San Francisco.

Following the business meeting Mrs. Albert B. Stephens will talk on Hummingbirds, with emphasis on those species found in California.

Guests are welcome. No-host dinner at Hotel Whitcomb at 6 p.m.

— HARRY C. ADAMSON,
Program Chairman.

Nov. 15, Wednesday, Audubon Screen Tour "BY ERIE'S CHANGING SHORES" by G. Harrison Orians, Berkeley High School Little Theatre.

Nov. 19, Sunday,

To JOYCE ISLAND GAME REFUGE, Solano County. This should be a good time to see the ducks, geese, swans, etc. Meet at Suisun at 8:30 a.m., and proceed by chartered boat to the refuge, where participants may hike 8 miles around the island. Trip \$2.00. Send money to Ross McFadyen, 2510 Bancroft Way, Berkeley 4, by Nov. 3rd. Advance reservations of 50 necessary.

Nov. 25, Saturday,

ORINDA, Contra Costa County.
From San Francisco take 7:58 E train

to end of the line in Berkeley. Meet at Domingo and Ashby Aves. Proceed in private cars to Orinda, turn left, then right thru the Country Club to Orinda Lake. Later we will visit San Pablo Reservoir, and probably also St. Mary's College and San Leandro Reservoir. Hooded mergansers and Wilson snipe are sometimes seen at Orinda Lake, and Canada geese at the larger reservoirs. Bring lunch, binoculars, telescope and interested friends.

Dec. 2 and 3,

SACRAMENTO MIGRATORY WATERFOWL REFUGE near Willows, and the Grey Lodge Refuge near Gridley. On this last year unbelievable numbers of duck and geese (4 species) were seen, also swans, white pelicans and cranes. On Saturday, December 2, meet at 10:30 at the observation tower at the refuge headquarters on the east side of route 99W about 8 miles south of Willows. Overnight accommodations are available nearby at Willows, Gridley and Marysville. On Sunday, Dec. 3, meet at the post office in Gridley at 9:00 or join the party later at the GREY LODGE REFUGE. If you can't come up for the week-end try to come up for one day. Bring plenty of warm clothes as it will be colder than in the Bay area. Leader, Harry Adamson.

— A. LAURENCE CURL,
Field Trips Chairman

Golden Gate Audubon Society

Organized January 25, 1917

For the Study and the Protection of Birds

Branch of National Audubon Society

President... Mrs. T. Eric Reynolds.....140 Estates Drive, Piedmont 11, AN. 1-7121
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Editor..... Miss Minnie H. Young.....2726 Prince Street, Berkeley 5, HU. 3-3180

Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p. m.

Assembly Room, San Francisco Public Library, Larkin and McAllister Sts., San Francisco
Alternate months — Oakland.

Joint membership, Local & National \$5.00 per Year, includes Audubon Magazine